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accepted a professorship of preventive medicine in Washington University, St. Louis.

PROFESSOR GUIGNARD, for fifteen years director of the Paris School of Pharmacy, has resigned his appointment and is succeeded by M. Henry Gautier, professor of mineral chemistry at the school.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### SPECIAL COMMITTEES ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is trying a plan of cooperation with international committees representing the various branches of zoology in an effort to determine in how far it will be possible to reach a unanimous agreement upon the names of the most important zoological genera, together with the type species of the genera in question.

The International Commission of Medical Zoology, established at the Graz Congress, has undertaken a study of over three hundred names applied to the trematodes reported as parasitic in man. This commission is to pass upon the zoological status of the names in respect to synonymy and validity. The report will then be submitted to the International Commission on Nomenclature. It is the plan of the latter commission to publish the report, and to invite criticisms upon the same from the zoologists of the world. After ample opportunity is given for such criticism it is the plan of the commission on nomenclature to attempt to reach a unanimous ruling upon the names, and to submit this ruling to the next international congress.

The secretary of the international commission on nomenclature is inviting specialists in other groups to conduct similar studies upon the most prominent and best known genera. The plan adopted is for the secretary to select three or more specialists of unquestioned international reputation in a given group, and to request these workers to add to their committee any colleagues whom they may desire. It is hoped that by this

means preliminary studies of fundamental and permanent value may be conducted, and that the contending factions, in respect to nomenclature, may be harmoniously united.

The secretary of the commission on nomenclature is adopting the plan of taking man as a center, first working out, so far as may be done unanimously, names to be adopted for the animals most intimately associated with man, and while the undertaking may require years of patient labor, it is hoped eventually to establish a list of not less than ten thousand generic names, agreed upon unanimously, first by the special committee, and then passed upon unanimously by the commission on nomenclature. It is hoped, further, that by this plan an immense number of useless synonyms can be unanimously agreed upon as such, and gradually eliminated from general zoological literature.

The scheme naturally depends upon the amount of cooperation on the part of the special committees, which will be formed as rapidly as the work will justify.

C. W. STILES,

*Secretary International Commission  
on Zoological Nomenclature*

##### FACTS AND PRINCIPLES

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: May I have space in your columns to reply to the criticism of Professor R. S. Woodworth in your issue of November 25, on my article, "American Educational Defects," which was printed in SCIENCE on October 28, 1910? I have no desire to enter into any needless controversy, but Professor Woodworth seems to me to have misunderstood my language and misconceived my purpose in a way that makes an answer desirable.

There would be little profit in my discussing with Professor Woodworth whether my article is banal or not, which is purely a matter of taste and judgment; but one observation in this connection seems to me pertinent, namely, that there is nothing particularly novel about truth, and that, if educational inefficiency is as prevalent as I have claimed it to be, it would not be strange if it had